

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-12, 14, 15, 17-24 remain in the case. Claims 3, 7, 13 and 16 have been cancelled.

It is noted that the Examiner rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, citing the lack of antecedent basis for the recitation of “the high temperatures”. Claim 10 has been amended by deleting the recitation relating to withstanding high temperatures. It is believed that this recitation is superfluous in view of the inherent properties of the recited ceramic based material and unnecessary to distinguish the claim over the prior art.

It is also noted that claims 3, 4, 7, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim base, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3 and therefore complies with the Examiner’s direction. Original claims 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 18 are all now dependent upon amended claim 1, which is now in allowable form. Therefore the original dependent claims now depend from an allowable claim and are in allowable form.

Claim 7 has been cancelled and rewritten as new claim 21 incorporating all of the limitations of original claims 1 and 7. Therefore, new claim 21 is believed to be in allowable form.

Claim 12 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of objected to original claim 13 which depended from claim 12. Claim 13 has been cancelled. Therefore claim 12 is believed to be in allowable form.

Claims 14 and 15 are dependent upon amended claim 12, therefore, it is believed these claims are now in allowable form.

Claim 16, dependent on claim 13, was objected to but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 16 has been cancelled and rewritten in independent form as new claim 23 including all the limitations of claim 12 and claim 16.

Claim 20, dependent upon claim 19, was indicated as allowable. Claim 19 has been amended to include all the limitations of original claim 20 and therefore it is believed to be in allowable form. Claim 20 has therefore been cancelled.

The Examiner's attention is directed to amended claims 1, 12 and 19. In addition to the addition of the limitations of the dependent claims 3, 13 and 20, editorial amendments were also made which are believed to clarify the claims with respect to proper antecedent basis without any material effect regarding patentably distinguishing over the prior art as indicated the Examiner in the outstanding Action.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to new claims 22, 24 and 25. New claim 22 is dependent upon new claim 21 which included the limitations recited in original claims 1 and 7 and further adds the limitations recited in original claim 3.

New claim 24 recites limitations very similar to those recited in current claim 2 dependent upon amended claim 1. Claim 24 includes a specific recitation relating to the top and bottom portions being interconnected to form a container and disposing the fragrant medium in the container. Claim 24 further includes a recitation defining a

plurality of openings in the top, bottom and fragrant medium forming passages for the flow of air through the container and fragrant medium. Claim 25 is dependent upon claim 24 and therefore is believed to also be in allowable form.

Therefore it is believed that the newly added claims define patentable subject matter over the prior art.

It is believed that this response is complete and places the case in condition for allowance. If there are any procedural matters or any other matter which requires attention, the undersigned respectfully requests the Examiner call the present attorney in order to expedite the prosecution of this case.

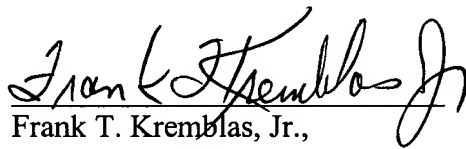
Therefore, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Enclosed herewith is a new Power of Attorney.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 13-3393 for any insufficient fees under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 or 1.17, or credit any overpayment of fees.

Respectfully submitted,

6/23/03
Date of Signature


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